Rate of Customs duty under FTA

†328. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India does foreign trade under the Free Trade Agreement with various countries of the world;

(b) if so, the countries with whom foreign trade was going on till December, 2005 under the Free Trade Agreement;

(c) whether it is also a fact that rate of the custom duty under the Free Trade Agreement remains less than the ordinary custom duty; and

(d) if so, the facts thereof and the difference between the two rates of custom duties?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) The following Free Trade Agreements (FTA) signed with India's trading partners have been implemented till December 2005:—

(i) India-Bhutan Agreement on Trade and Commerce

(ii) India-Sri Lanka Free Trade Agreement

(iii) Cooperation Agreement (CECA) between India and Singapore

(iv) Early Harvest Scheme of 82 tariff lines under Framework Agreement for establishing a Free Trade Area between India and Thailand.

(c) and (d) Under an FTA, the trading partners exchange tariff concessions on items of export interest to each other. The difference between the preferential duty under FTA and the basic custom duty vary from product to product and range from 0-100%. The preferential duty also varies from agreement to agreement.

Agricultural Products dumped into Indian markets

329. SHRIMATI SUKHBUNS KAUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE & INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that huge amount of cheap imported agricultural +Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.